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General Assembly
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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The situation in the Middle East

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Strengthening of the United Nations system

General and complete disarmament

Sustainable development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, adopted at their ministerial meeting, held in Almaty, on 22 October 2004 (see annex).

Since Kazakhstan is chairing the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia process, I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items: 27, 36, 39 (d), 52, 54, 65, 85 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English/Russian]

Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, adopted at their ministerial meeting in Almaty, 22 October 2004

We, the ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met today in Almaty to exchange views on the current situation at the regional and global levels and to explore possibilities to further cooperation, peace and security in Asia.

The situation on the Asian continent and in the world is rapidly changing. Peace, development and cooperation are the main trends, but threats to peace and security, such as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivery and the possibility of their falling in the hands of terrorists, illicit drug trafficking, regional conflicts and disputes, foreign occupation, economic and social problems, in particular poverty, human trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, continue to exist. These threats and opportunities are global in nature and multilateral efforts by the international community are required to deal with them effectively. The situation in Asia is characterized by the diversity of its political and economic systems and unique cultural traditions, and therefore requires due attention to these particularities in the formulation of approaches for enhancing security and prosperity of our peoples.

We stress that the main objective of CICA is to make its own contribution the enhancement of an atmosphere of peace and security in Asia. In this respect, CICA represents a forum where prospects for our interaction can be discussed and appropriate multilateral approaches for enhancing cooperation can be elaborated in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Almaty Act.

We reaffirm our commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

We recognize the special role of confidence-building measures in enhancing cooperation and further developing an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in Asia and in creating favourable conditions for finding solutions to problems in the military-political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

Recent developments in international relations demonstrate that multilateral approaches based on the widest possible international support are the most effective way to address the challenges of the contemporary world. We therefore reaffirm the central role of the United nations in the maintenance and promotion of international peace, security and sustainable development in accordance with its Charter. We emphasize the need for reform of the United Nations system to make it more responsive to traditional and new challenges and agree to work towards this goal.

We reaffirm that the unit, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the right of the Iraqi people as a whole to control their financial and natural resources, should be respected by the international community. We welcome the statement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighbouring States based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and arrangements, in particular those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invite Iraq and its neighbouring States to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region, including by eliminating all terrorist presence in their territories. We support the initiation of the political process in Iraq as outlined in United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 (2004). We emphasize that the United Nations should play a central role in this process. We welcome the forthcoming international conference on Iraq to be held in Egypt from 23 to 25 November 2004.

We support the process of political and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan and encourage all countries, including neighbouring States, to intensify their efforts to assist the Afghan Government in promoting stability, economic rehabilitation and fighting terrorism and drug production in the country. We also consider it necessary to continue collective efforts to chart a comprehensive strategy of international actions to counter the drug threat originating from Afghanistan. We welcome the presidential elections in Afghanistan as one of the key elements of the Bonn process and the first most important step towards establishing new state institutions based on democratic principles.

We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to resume negotiations to help achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region. We welcome initiatives to achieve this objective, in particular the Roadmap, as endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 1515 (2003), and President Bush's vision.

We support the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, which would serve the interests of all States concerned and enhance the stability of the entire Eurasian region, through the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

We support the process of the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearization and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula. We stand for an early achievement of mutually acceptable agreements that would promote peace, security and cooperation in the Korean peninsula and in north-east Asia as a whole.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism and agree to enhance our efforts at bilateral and multilateral levels in fighting these common threats, which undermine the very foundations of international peace and security. The fight against these threats should be global, comprehensive and sustained, not selective or discriminatory, and should avoid applying double standards.

We unequivocally support the presidential statement issued by the Security Council of the United Nations (S/PRST/2004/31) condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation.

We reaffirm that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all States to fulfil their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is vital to prevent terrorist and criminal groups from attempts to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and multilateral efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.

We emphasize that international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation should not affect the rights of States to access and use nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes, in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements.

We recognize that economic and social progress is a vital component of security and stability in Asia. We therefore stress the importance of the development of regional and subregional dialogue and the strengthening of multilateral cooperative approaches as well as measures, as appropriate, on promoting sustainable development, economic cooperation, the well-being of our peoples and respect for human rights.

We support various multilateral and individual initiatives on development of dialogue among civilizations, which is one of the principal instruments in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and intolerance and in promoting peaceful coexistence among adherents of different religious or cultures.

Today we adopted decisions reflecting the results of the work done by the States members in order to accomplish tasks given by the heads of State and/or Government at the 2002 CICA Summit and to continue our work in preparations for the next CICA Summit.

Almaty, 22 October 2004